

requested that the Office transfer the drawings from original application Serial No. 08/215,352, now U.S. Patent 5482,226, to the above identified reissue application file.

PRIOR ART:

Please transfer all of the prior art references from the original application Serial No. 08/215,352, now U.S. Patent 5482,226 to the above identified reissue application file

STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

The application, as previously amended, included twenty one (21) claims including four () independent claims.

Claims 1-18 have been allowed.

Claims 19-21 have been indicated to be allowable.

No claims have been added or canceled.

Therefore, the application now still includes twenty one (21) claims including four () independent claims, and no additional fees are required.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Examiner had previously noted that applicant has not filed the specification with the above reissue application using the original columns from the patent. Undersigned hereby states that the specification and the abstract, as filed, were true and accurate representations and copies of the specification and abstract of U.S. Patent 5482,226.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 19, 20 and 21 were objected to for various reasons which were set forth in the Office Letter mailed May 12, 1999, and amended without prejudice and without any disclaimer of the subject matter therein in the Amendment which was mailed on September 13, 1999. It is now

understood that the objections to the claims have been avoided, and that the objections to the claims have now been withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO THE REISSUE APPLICATION

The Office had previously objected to this application under 37 CFR 1.172(a) as lacking the written consent of all assignees owning an undivided interest in the patent. It is now understood that this objections has been withdrawn.

The Office had previously objected to this application under 37 CFR 1.172(a) on the grounds that the assignee has not established its ownership interest in the patent for which reissue is being requested. It is now understood that this objections has been withdrawn.

The Office had previously further objected to the reissue declaration filed with this application on the basis that it is defective because it fails to identify at least one error which is relied upon to support the reissue application, and that therefore a supplemental reissue declaration is required. A SUPPLEMENTAL REISSUE DECLARATION identifying several errors which are relied upon to support the reissue application is attached. It is therefor requested that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS BASED ON DEFECTIVE REISSUE DECLARATION

The Office had previously rejected Claims 1-21 as being based upon a defective declaration under 35 U.S.C. 251. As applicant has now enclosed a SUPPLEMENTAL REISSUE DECLARATION, it is requested that this rejection now be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

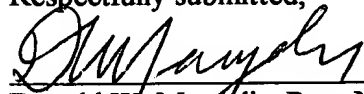
Claims 19, 20 and 21 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 19, 20 and 21 have been amended without prejudice and without any disclaimer of the subject

matter therein in the Amendment that was mailed on September 13, 1999. It is now understood that the objections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph have been avoided, and that these objections to the claims have now be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Objections, and rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph have been avoided by amendment and by argument. It is therefore requested that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures
DWM:sfm

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that on this date this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to Examiner Rivera at 703/308-0552, and a confirmation copy is also being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with proper postage attached and addressed to: to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Non-Fee Amendment, Washington, DC 20231.

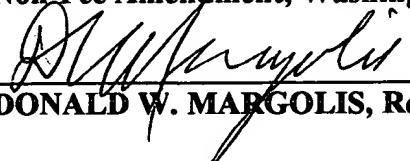

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December 18, 1999

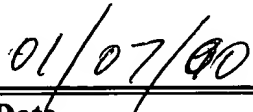


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING STATEMENT

I hereby certify that on this date this correspondence and any required fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope with proper postage attached and addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Non-Fee Amendment, Washington, D.C. 20231.



DONALD W. MARGOLIS, Reg.No. 22,045



Date